

other authorities delegated to the U.S. Department of Commerce.

§ 261.102 Publication and removal of U.S. Grade Standards.

(a) The voluntary U.S. Standards for Grades adopted pursuant to this part shall be issued as Program policies and contained within the NMFS Fishery Products Inspection Manual. Compliance with voluntary standards issued as Program policies within the manual shall satisfy the requirements of this part. Compliance with a voluntary standard issued as a Program policy does not relieve any party from the responsibility to comply with the provisions of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act; or other Federal laws and regulations.

(b) Notification of an application for a new grade standard shall be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER. If adopted, the grade standard shall be issued as a Program policy and contained in the NMFS Fishery Products Inspection Manual.

(c) Recision and revision of a U.S. Standard for Grades will be made a Program policy amendment and contained in the NMFS Fishery Products Inspection Manual.

(d) The NMFS Fishery Products Inspection Manual is available to interested parties.

§ 261.103 Basis for determination of a U.S. Standard for Grades.

(a) To address the inherently distinct and dissimilar attributes found in the

fishery product groups, each standard for grades should have a different scope and product description, product forms, sample sizes, definition of defects, etc. The Secretary will make the final determination regarding the content of a U.S. Standard for Grades.

(b) A proposal for a new or revised U.S. grade standard may include the following:

(1) *Scope and product description*, which describes the products that are eligible for grading using the standard (e.g., fish portion, fish fillet).

(2) *Product forms*, which describe the types, styles and market forms covered by the standard (e.g., skin-off, tail-on, headless).

(3) *Grade and inspection marks*, which describe the grades and inspection mark criteria for each grade category (e.g., Grade A \leq 15 points).

(4) *Grade determination*, which describes the means by which the grade is determined (i.e., the factors rated by score points and those that are not). Standards may contain defect grouping limiting rules that contain additional provisions that must be met.

(5) *Sampling*, which describes the method of sampling and sample unit sizes (e.g., 10 portions, 8 ounces, etc.).

(6) *Procedures* that describe the process used to determine the product grade (e.g., label declarations, sensory evaluation).